



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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PR-089

Volunteers to Remove Litter from Park Waterways

Rusty bed springs, an old lawnmower, a feathered arrow, a missing first base, a water-heater, a safe, a waterlogged television and a giant tractor tire. No, this isn't a list of items to seek out during a scavenger hunt. These are all articles of trash which have been recovered from streams, creeks and rivers during Fairfax County Park Authority's Watershed Clean-Up Days.

On Saturday, October 21, 2006, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., individuals, families, students, scouts, and community groups will become part of the solution to pollution by removing trash and debris from their local waterways. Since 1990, the Park Authority has sponsored the biannual Watershed Clean-Up Day. This year's fall clean-up day is part of the International Coastal Cleanup, a worldwide annual event organized by The Ocean Conservancy.

Clean-up day leaders educate participants on the dynamics of streams and watersheds, teaching the importance of protecting water resources during this hands-on event. By picking up trash from in and around waterways, volunteers prevent paper waste, plastic bottles and illegally dumped garbage from reaching the Chesapeake Bay.

Removing trash from streams and rivers has an immediate impact on wildlife. For example, Huntley Meadows Park is home to a population of rare crayfish, which build clay chimneys to protect their newly laid eggs. Trash stirs up the water, creating silt, which clogs the chimney's narrow openings, trapping the future crayfish inside. Larger debris can destroy them completely.

Unfortunately, there is a lot of debris waiting to be removed. Volunteers removed 20 50-gallon bags of trash during the last clean-up day at Huntley Meadows Park, and 75 bags from Lake Accotink Park. Nearly two and a half tons of trash was removed from streams near Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Heavy rains earlier this summer washed litter from roads into park streams. Illegal dumpers continue to abandon their belongings near waterways, and ubiquitous grocery carts are still a problem.

Watershed Clean-up Day is being held at eight FCPA sites, with some of the sites offering flexible scheduling to accommodate industrious volunteers. Each site provides trash bags, hauling services and lots of appreciation, but participants should wear boots and old clothes, bring gloves and water. Volunteers at Lake Accotink Park will be rewarded with coupons for a free hot dog, chips and a soda.

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703-324-8700 • TTY: 703-803-3354 • ONLINE: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks • E-MAIL: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov



Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations, call 703-324-8563 or TTY 703-803-3354. Please allow ten working days in advance of events in order to make the necessary arrangements.

To reserve a section of the watershed at one of the following sites, please call the FCPA Resource Management Division at 703-324-8674 or contact the sites directly. Advance registration is appreciated. Event held rain or shine.

- Frying Pan Farm Park, Herndon (Frying Pan Branch)
703-437-9101
- Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Annandale (Roundtree Park – Holmes Run)
703-941-1065
- Hidden Pond Nature Center, Springfield (Pohick Creek)
703-451-9588
- Huntley Meadows Park, Alexandria (Little Hunting Creek)
703-768-2525
- Riverbend Visitor Center, Great Falls (Potomac River)
703-759-9018
- Sully Historic Site, Chantilly (Cain's Branch)
703-437-1794
- Ellanor C. Lawrence Park/Walney Visitor Center, Chantilly
(Flatlick Branch, Big Rocky Run, Cub Run, Frog Branch)
703-631-0013, repeated 1-3pm
- Lake Accotink, Springfield (Accotink Creek and Brookfield Park)
703-569-3464

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